



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

*Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse \* Post Office Box 45330 \* Olympia, WA 98504-5330*

**Employment Opportunity**

**DOCTORAL LEVEL RESEARCHER/ANALYST  
in the field of  
SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION**

October 27, 2005

***Background***

In the fall of 2004, the Washington State Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse (DASA) received a State Incentive Grant (SIG) from the federal Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP). The purpose of the grant is to enhance existing assessment processes, to develop new planning processes, to implement and evaluate evidence-based strategies, and to establish reporting procedures that track progress toward preventing alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use and abuse.

An important element of this grant is CSAP and DASA's commitment to using data to inform the decision-making process at all levels. It is expected, for example, that decisions contemplated by the project's advisory council will be informed by the best data available. Similarly, it is expected that service planners will have the most current information available to assess service needs in their communities as well as access to the best evidence-based strategies for addressing substance abuse problems.

Consistent with this data-driven focus, the project includes a State Epidemiological Workgroup consisting of doctoral-level researchers representing multiple state agencies and universities. All members of the Workgroup were selected because of their expertise in the areas of prevention and drug abuse research. The purpose of this group is to serve as an expert panel to the project by supporting data-driven decision-making, advising policy arms of the project, and providing technical assistance to prevention providers to enhance their use of data in all aspects of prevention planning at both the state and local levels.

***Primary Responsibilities of Position***

The individual who assumes this position will be responsible for the design and conduct of analyses needed to support the data-driven needs of the project. These data will reside in multiple archival, administrative, and survey databases kept by various governmental agencies. The analyses will range from simple descriptive statistics through complex multivariate procedures such as multiple regression, path analysis, and, to the extent possible, geographic analyses.

The successful candidate will help staff the State Epidemiological Workgroup by designing and conducting analyses of key data to inform group discussion and decision-making. In addition, they will take primary responsibility for the design and implementation of research that identifies short- and long-term substance abuse prevention needs in Washington State and its communities, effective prevention resources to meet these needs, as well as outcomes for prevention efforts. Other duties include producing a variety of reports summarizing results of analyses for state and federal policymakers, state and local prevention planners as well as for publication in scholarly journals.

The person who assumes this position will have a number of data sources available to them, including a set of over 60 indicators related to substance abuse prevention in Washington State, <http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/rda/research/4/47/updated/default.shtm>. Many indicators from this database are available

at both county and sub-county levels. Another important resource is contained in data files stemming from the statewide Healthy Youth Survey. This is a biennial statewide student survey of substance use, and related behaviors that includes items in connection with attendant risk and protective factors. The most recent administration of this survey saw nearly 80 percent of Washington's school districts participate. Data are available from 1988 to the present. A third important resource is a recently developed statewide management information system that contains a rich set of information about individuals who have received prevention services. Working with these and other existing data sources will be an important part of the position's focus. In addition, however, they will be expected to explore and recommend new data sources to supplement those that currently exist.

### ***Qualifications***

We are looking for a person with strong analytic skills, with experience in managing information from large datasets, and with a strong interest in prevention science. The ideal candidate will have excellent written and verbal communication skills including the ability to effectively communicate with researchers, policy makers, and prevention planners. In addition, the successful candidate must have a doctorate in one of the social or health-related sciences; a minimum of two consecutive years programming in SAS or comparable statistical language; at least one year analyzing data from large data sets; demonstrated ability to perform statistical analyses (from simple descriptive statistics through multivariate procedures); and at least three publications/reports on which they share authorship. Knowledge of the substance abuse prevention field is preferred. Experience with geographic analytic procedures would be desirable.

### ***Salary and Position Information***

The salary range for this position is \$53,796 to \$66,012, depending upon qualifications. The position is immediately available and is expected to be funded through September, 2009.

The position is located within the Research Section at the Washington State Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse headquarters in Lacey, a few miles from the state capital, Olympia. Lacey/Olympia is located about fifty miles south of Seattle and is within a two hour drive of ocean beaches to the west and Mount Rainier to the east.

### ***Interested Persons***

Interested persons should submit a letter of interest that refers to the DASA Prevention Research Position, includes a summary of their qualifications for the position, a resume or vitae that includes educational background and employment history, and the name, address, and phone number of four references to:

Linda Becker, Ph.D.  
Prevention Research Manager  
Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse  
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Post Office Box 45330  
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Minorities, persons with disabilities, and women are encouraged to apply.